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Your Reference: HL74402/ASG/par
Application No: GB 0004282.0

3 June 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(6)

Plurality of invention

I consider that your application relates to more than one invention as follows:

- a. The subject matter of claims 1, 5 and 6, as defined by a wellbore casing formed from overlapping tubulars where the tubulars are radially and plastically deformed.
- b. The subject matter of claim 7, as defined by a wellbore casing formed from overlapping tubulars but where there is no requirement that the tubulars are radially deformed.

My search report relates to the first invention only. If you want the other invention searched, you should file a further Patents Form 9/77.

I enclose two copies of my search report relating to claims 1-6, 8 and a copy of the citations.

This search is in response to the further Patents Form 9/77 filed on 24 April 2003.

Yours faithfully

[†]Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0004282.0

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3 June 2003

L. A. Ellis

Dr. Lyndon Ellis
Examiner



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0004282.0
Claims searched: 1-6, 8

Examiner: Dr. Lyndon Ellis
Date of search: 2 June 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Further Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance	
X, E	1-6	GB 2380213 A	(Shell) Whole document, noting for example, page 19, lines 5-27 and figures
X, E	1-6	GB 2347950 A	(Shell) Whole document, noting for example, page 58, lines 3 to page 59, line 6 and figures
X, E	1-6	GB 2344606 A	(Shell) Whole document

Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^V:

E1F

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

E21B

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report :

Online: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO



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3 June 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Latest date for reply: 14 July 2003

I have re-examined your application in response to your agent's letter of 23 April 2003 and enclose two copies of my further examination report.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the enclosed report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

You should also note that the normal, unextended period allowed for complying fully with the requirements of the Act will end on 4 September 2003. However, if you need extra time to settle any remaining objections you are entitled to extend that period by one month by filing Patents Form 52/77 and fee.

Please clearly mark all future correspondence as urgent.

Yours faithfully

L. A. Ellis

Dr. Lyndon Ellis
Examiner

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Application No: GB 0004282.0
Applicant: Shell Inter. Research Maatschappij B.V.

Examiner: Dr. Lyndon Ellis
Tel: 01633 814943
Date of report: 3 June 2003

Latest date for reply: 14 July 2003

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Patents Act 1977

Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Basis of the examination

1. My examination has taken account of the amendments filed with your agent's letter of 27 February 2003.

Plurality of invention

2. Your claims define two separate inventions not forming a single inventive concept. The inventions are:

- a. The subject matter of claims 1, 5 and 6, as defined by a wellbore casing formed from overlapping tubulars where the tubulars are radially and plastically deformed.
- b. The subject matter of claim 7, as defined by a wellbore casing formed from overlapping tubulars but where there is no requirement that the tubulars are radially deformed.

3. You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate to only one invention or inventive concept. You will also need to make consequential amendments to the description.

Scope of search

4. In accordance with Section 17(6), only the first of these inventions has been searched. The other invention can be searched if you wish. In this case you will have to file a further Form 9/77.

What this report covers

5. I have not been able to consider the novelty or obviousness of the unsearched invention.

Novelty

6. The invention as defined in claims 1-6 is not new because it has already been disclosed in each of the following documents:

GB 2380213 A (Shell)*



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Application No: GB 0004282.0

Date of Report: 3 June 2003
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[Examination Report contd.]

GB 2347950 A (Shell)*
GB 2344606 A (Shell)*

7. No amendment of your claims will be needed in respect of the document marked * if you can show that the priority date of your invention is not later than the priority date of the relevant disclosure in that document.

8. All three documents seem to show expandible wellbore casings having thick and thin walled sections. The tubulars are overlapped and expanded to form the casing. Compressible seals are also present, thus the indicated claims would appear to have been anticipated.